

BOROUGH OF PENRYN



# REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 1









BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Penryn.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Penryn during 1951.

The health of the Borough was satisfactory. The Death Rate was lower than that for the whole country and the Birth Rate was higher. The Infant Mortality Rate for the past 5 years averages out at 22.2 per thousand live births which is considerably better than the figures for England and Wales.

Other than a mild outbreak of measles in January and February which involved a total of 50 children there was no epidemic disease. There was one unexplained sporadic case of poliomyelitis.

Despite the provision during the year of an additional 53 houses it is not at all certain that the rate at which old houses are falling into dilapidation is not in excess of this. Many of the existing sub-standard houses could be rescued and given a further useful life of ten or twenty years if money could be spent on them now. As a financial proposition this sort of work has no attractions to the private owner but it seems to me imperative that some way of preventing the loss of these houses should be found.

I should like here to express my appreciation of the help and consideration I have always received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and my thanks to Mr. Blackmore for his ready co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

V. E. Whitman,

Medical Officer of Health.





GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	721
Population	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,104
Number of inhabited houses			..	..	..	..	..	1,274
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£20,413
Product of 1d rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£78
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945								192
Number of families on waiting list for houses							..	279

VITAL STATISTICSLive Births

Males	30	Females	42	Total	78
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"					1.00
Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn					17.5
Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales					15.5

Still Births

Males	2	Females	Nil	Total	2
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, Penryn					27.0
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales					22.9

Deaths

Males	30	Females	18	Total	48
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"					0.96
Death Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn					11.2
Death Rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales					12.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Males	2	Females	1	Total	3
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Penryn					41.7
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales					29.6

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

							1950	1951
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	11
Coronary disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	4

Concentration of inhibitor, g/l	Rate of polymerization, %/min
0	100
0.05	95
0.1	90
0.2	80
0.3	70
0.4	60
0.5	50
0.6	40
0.7	30
0.8	20
0.9	15
1.0	10



ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH cont.

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	1	-
Other heart disease .. .. .	7	9
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	5	4
Influenza .. .. .	-	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	-	-
Bronchitis .. .. .	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	-	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .. .. .	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea . . . .	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis .. .. .	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	-	-
Congenital malformations .. .. .	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases ..	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	-	1
All other accidents .. .. .	3	1
Suicide .. .. .	2	-
Homicide & operations of war . . . . .	-	-
	<u>62</u>	<u>48</u>

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 + .. .. .	2	1	3
1 - 4 .. .. .	-	-	-
5 - 14 .. .. .	-	-	-
15- 24 .. .. .	-	-	-
25- 44 .. .. .	-	1	1
45- 64 .. .. .	5	1	6
65- 74 .. .. .	14	7	21
75+ .. .. .	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>17</u>
	30	18	48
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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.1. Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinic 51 sessions were held at which there were 1629 attendances. The average attendance was thus 32 per session.

Dental Clinic

	<u>Expectant &amp; Nursing Mothers.</u>	<u>Pre-school Children</u>	<u>School Children</u>
Number inspected	5	12	565
Number requiring treatment	5	11	436
Number treated	4	11	285
Number of attendances	14	27	566
Number made dentally fit	2	1	235

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service.

These services are supplied by Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service.

During the year 10 maternity and 83 other cases were given help in their own homes.



4. After-Care.

Free extra nourishment was granted to 6 tubercular persons on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

5. Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting.

General cases	26
Nursing visits	1,028
Midwifery cases	64
Midwifery visits	1,208
Ante natal visits	364
Home visits to children under 5	2,063

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Acute Poliomyelitis</u>		<u>Measles</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 +	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	3	1	-	10	3
3 - 4	-	1	-	-	7	9
5 - 9	-	1	-	-	15	10
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 +	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	5	1	-	32	22
Total	5		1		54	

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Acute Pneumonia</u>		<u>Puerperal Pyrexia</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>F</u>
0 - 4	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-
15 - 44	-	-	1
45 - 64	1	-	-
65 +	-	-	-
	1	-	1
Total	1		1

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 78 (44) children under 5 were immunised against diphtheria, 211 (138) booster doses were also given. There was thus a welcome increase over the previous year, the figures for which are shown in brackets.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 15 months and 5 years in Penryn was 320, of these 232 or 72.5% had been immunised.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 +</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	-	6	2	7	15
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	8	8



These figures are just about as bad as it is possible to be. That the vast majority are convinced of the efficiency of vaccination is proved by the huge numbers that rush to the doctors whenever a case of smallpox occurs. What is not sufficiently appreciated is that while primary vaccination in infancy is practically 100% free from danger ill effects have occasionally occurred as a result of primary vaccination in older children and adolescents. On the other hand, re-vaccination, at any age, is a perfectly safe procedure.

### Tuberculosis

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	4		-		1		-	

On the 31st December, there were 34 respiratory and 13 non-respiratory cases on the register.

Rate per 1,000 population, Penryn	11.5
Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall	6.1

Up to the 31st December 8 children, all of them contacts with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. The aim is to protect all contacts under 40 years of age and when that is completed to offer B.C.G. vaccination to all children leaving school.





## BOROUGH OF PENRYN

### Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

#### Water Supply

The Falmouth Waterworks have maintained an adequate supply of water to the Borough during the year. The supply was extended to meet the need at Gldon Acre.

The Round Ring area and Tremough Dale are still without a main supply and it is to be hoped that these deficiencies will be remedied at the earliest practical opportunity.

#### Sewerage

The sewerage system of the town is being continually extended to provide for the new houses under construction. The scheme for the provision of a new length of sewer in the St. Thomas Street - Hill Head area has been approved by the Council and it is hoped that this work will be incorporated in the major contract for dealing with the sewers and outfall for the town.

#### Meat and Other Foods

The condition of carcase meat retailed in the Borough has continued to be good whereas the canned meats imported from the Continent have given rise to a number of complaints and condemnations.

The following foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit:-

**Pork 56lbs Fish 29½lbs.**

#### Canned Foods

Ham	149½lb
Meats	30 lbs
Fruits	61 lbs
Vegetables	10 lbs
Cheese	18 lbs
Soups	7½lbs

and 33 dozen packets of sponge mixture.

#### Slaughter-houses

The Ministry of Food central slaughter-house at Penrose has continued to operate and accordingly none of the local slaughter-houses have been used during the year.



### Housing

Set out below are details of new houses erected and repairs carried out to existing property :-

New houses erected by the Council	14
New houses erected by Private Enterprise	20
War Damaged houses repaired	-
Other houses repaired as the result of informal action	10
Repairs to Council houses	207
No. of inspections made regarding the disrepair or defective conditions of houses (excluding Council houses)	12
No. of inspections, as above, of Council houses	221
Total No. of houses in the Borough	1,265
No. of Council Houses	326

### Rodent Control

During this year the work of systematic inspection and control has replaced, to a large extent, the following up of complaints which were so prevalent in 1950. Details of action taken are shown below :-

No. of inspections and re-inspections made were 1,195.

#### Premises Treated

Dwellings and gardens	330
Refuse Dump	2
Business Premises	3
Corporation Properties	4

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The twice weekly collection of refuse has continued through the year.

The disposal of refuse has continued at the Falmouth Road site where serious attempts have been made to contain and cover the refuse.

Work has commenced on the preparation of the new disposal site at Bisson Water some 4 acres in extent.

This site well above high tide level will provide for the disposal of refuse in accordance with the Ministry's standard for many years to come.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen  
Your obedient servant

K.R. BLACKMORE. M.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

